(c) by when it will be possible to stop illegal immigration and to repatriate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is difficult to make a realistic estimate of the number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities.

A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration into India. These include, *inter alia*, construction of border roads, border fencing, raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between Border Outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments including night vision devices, etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh at various level from time to time. There are standing instructions to the State Government and Union Territory Administration to detect and deport foreigners staying illgally. It is not possible to deny minimum civil facilities to those identified as foreigners till they are deported.

(c) Detection and deportation of foreign nationals staying in India is a continuous ongoing process.

Meeting of Indo-Nepal JWG

667. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meetings of the Indo-Nepal Joint Working Group (JWG) were recently held in New Delhi on border management and effective sharing of intelligence between the two countries as well as review of the adequacy of the existing arrangements for exchange of information on criminal and terrorist activities; and

(b) if so, the details of discussion with outcome thereof particularly for manning important checkposts along the 1,751 Kms. Indo- Nepalese border as well as on 'Study Report' on security measures available at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) three meetings of the Indo-Nepal Joint

Working Group (JWG) have been held so far, in July, 1997 at Kathmandu; in June, 1998 at New Delhi and the latest from 1st to 3rd February, 2000 at Kathmandu. Concerete measures and coordination on security issues were discussed, reviewed and followed up at these meetings.

(b) During the third meeting of the Joint Working Group in Kathmandu, the two sides reiterated their determination not to permit the use of their respective territories for activities directed against the other. They reviewed the developments since the last meeting of the JWG and had a useful exchange of views on modalities for more effective management and regulation of the Indo-Nepal border. They agreed to strengthen cooperation to control undersirable activities and the movement of terrorist, criminals and other undesirable elements across the border. It was reiterated that the previlege of unimpeded access through the open border enjoyed by the nationals of the two countries should not be allowed to be misused by anyone, including third country nationals. An action plan has also been prepared in consultation with concerned States to stregthen policing and intelligence collection machinery including patrolling of vulnerable stretches. The report of the Committee, set up by the Nepalese Government to investigate security arrangements at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport, has not been made public.

Misuse of Samjhauta Express and Delhi-Lahore Bus Service

668. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the number of reports about the misuse of Samjhauta Exress and Delhi-Lahore Express bus service;

(b) whether the Police administration too have been complaining about the anti Indian use of Samjhauta Express and Delhi-Lahore bus service;

(c) whether Government received these complaints from the Police administration too; and

(d) whether Government are considering to step these two services between India and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.